

# Northern Great Plains Network

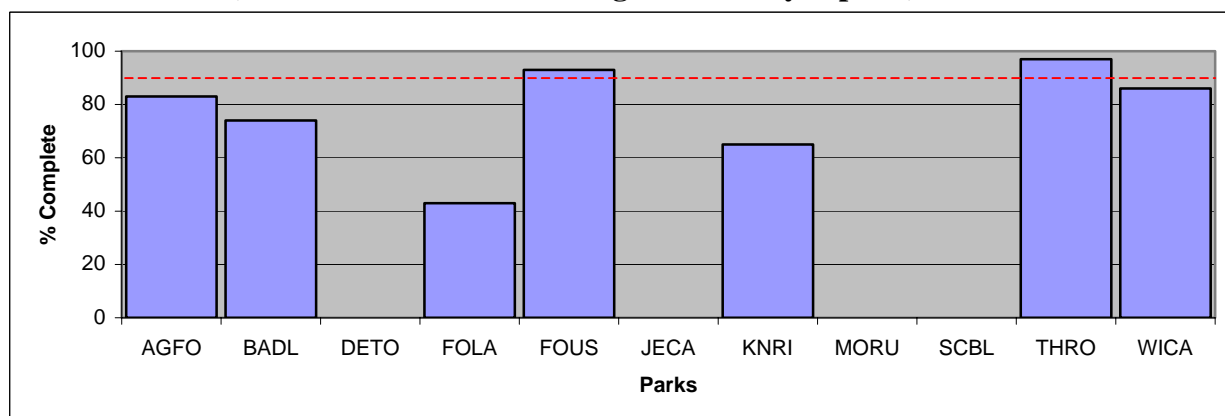
## *Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report*

March 2001

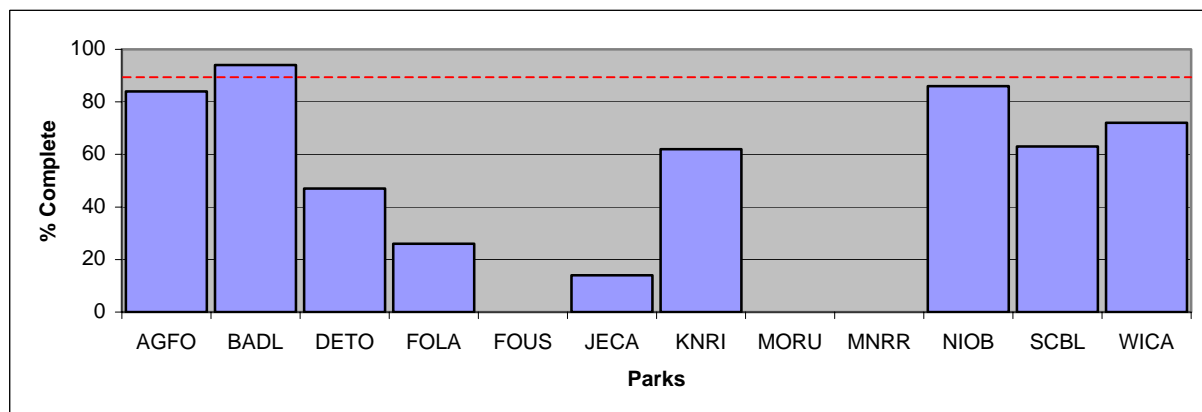
Welcome to the March newsletter for the Northern Great Plains Network. This has been a busy month evaluating previous inventory data on vascular plants and vertebrates as well as locating new sources of information. For those of you attending the Midwest Region natural resources meeting in Minnesota, I will be providing an update of I&M work for our network. This report hits some of the highlights.

*Evaluation of inventory completeness:* I have received comments back from most (but not quite all) of the experts that were reviewing our lists of vertebrate species expected to occur in each of the parks. I have compared the reviewed lists of expected species with lists of documented species occurrence to update our estimates of how complete our inventories are. The results are summarized in the graphs below. Detailed summaries will be provided for the May Network meeting.

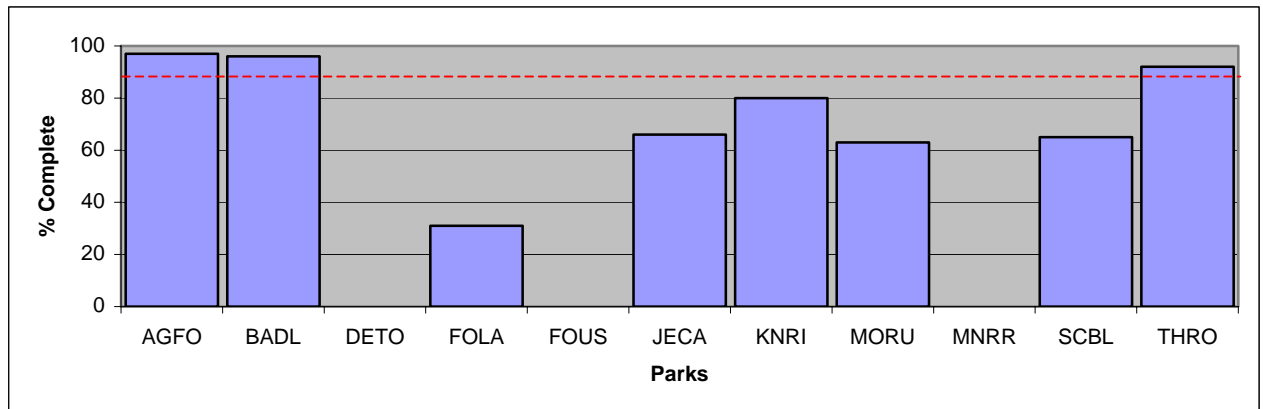
### **Fish Inventories (MNRR and NIOB still being reviewed by experts)**



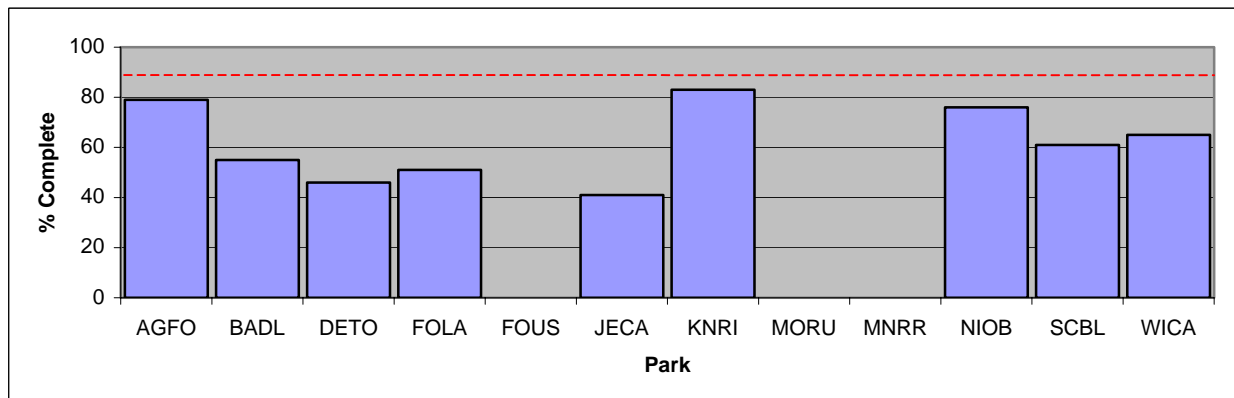
### **Herp Inventories (THRO still under review)**



### Bird Inventories (NIOB and WICA in progress)



### Mammal Inventories (THRO under review)



*Additional Sources of Inventory Information:* During March I have also been making contacts with other agencies in and around our parks to try to find any additional sources of inventory data. A few great finds include breeding bird data for Mount Rushmore NM and the Missouri National Recreation River, fish data for the Fort Union area and a potential cooperative situation with the Black Hills National Forest to complete bird and rare plant inventories.

### *Data Mining and Management:*

- The announcement for the data technician is out on OPM until 4/12. Please pass the information along to anyone you know who might be interested.
- The Access version of NPSpp is nearly complete for our network. I am in the process of sending the files in to the WASO to be converted to the on-line Oracle version. Once the data is on-line, it will be easier to clean-up.

- A graduate student from the Univ. of Minnesota has agreed to do a literature review for us to uncover any additional inventory data. We are in the process of completing the paperwork for a small contract.

Voucher Specimens: It is likely that the parks will be able to add any new plant specimens we may collect to their existing herbariums. For vertebrates however, only a few of our network's parks are equipped to handle an influx of new specimens. We currently have two options for storing "extra" vertebrate specimens:

- The University of Nebraska at Lincoln museum is interested in taking on any vertebrate specimens we want to loan them.
- The USFWS has a storage facility in the Black Hills area that may be suitable for our vertebrate vouchers.

I am working on finding out the details associated with each of these options and we can discuss which route we want to take at the May Network meeting.